

Important Bird Areas

St. Anthony's Wilderness - SGL 211

Pennsylvania

This is a large, mountainous and forested area 5 miles north of Harrisburg. Most of the area is state game land, but a smaller portion is a municipal watershed and reservoir, along with some private property. There are several clearings where food plots have been created for wildlife. The terrain is steep and rugged over most of the area. The valley floors of Stony Creek and Clark's Creek have numerous vernal/autumnal ponds where salamanders and wood frogs spawn. Unusual/rare species found here include Eastern Woodrat, Woodland Jumping Mouse, American Holly, Naked-fruit Rush, Running Strawberry-bush, and Painted Trillium. The name "St. Anthony's Wilderness" has been used for the area since 1770. It is still largely wilderness unbroken by habitation or roads.

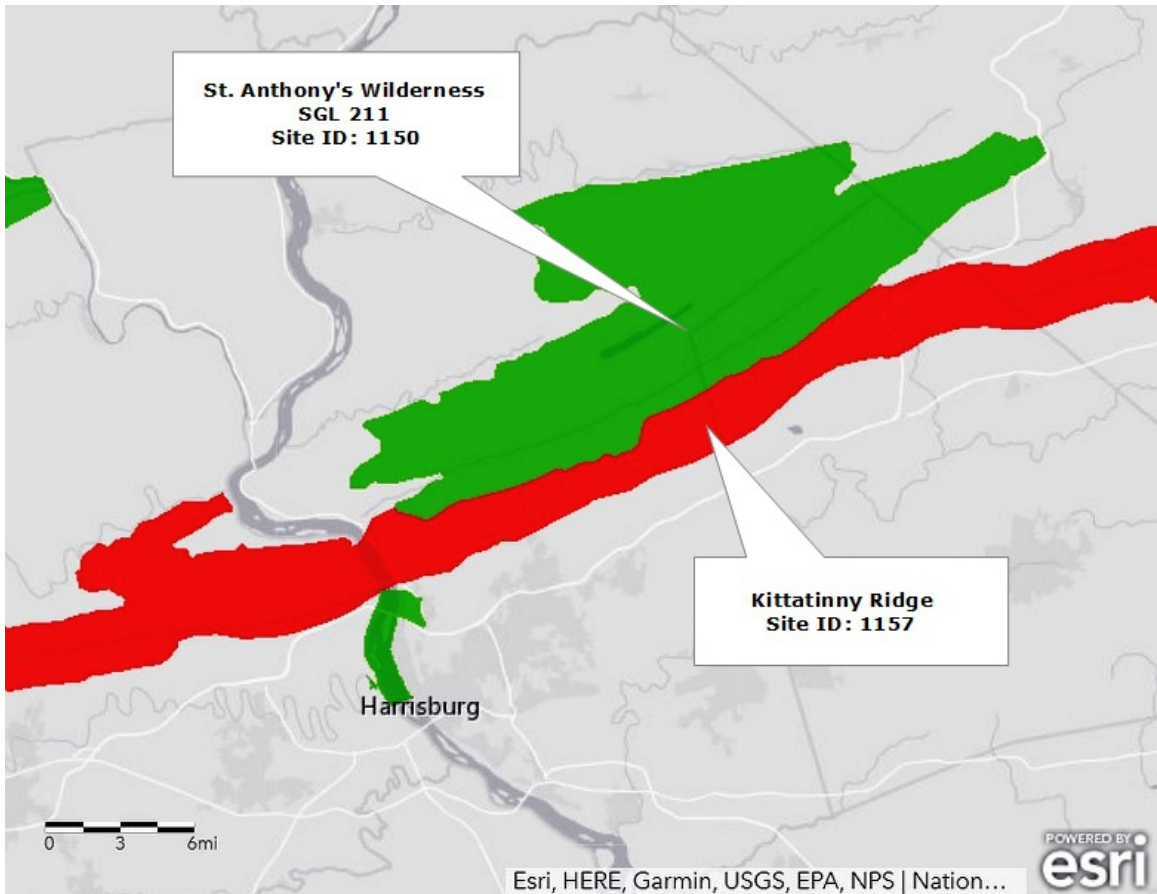
Ornithological Summary

The size and integrity of this forest at the southeast edge of the Ridge and Valley Province make it valuable habitat for interior forest species. Openings in the forest provide breeding habitat for additional species such as Golden-winged, Prairie and Blue-winged warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat and Prothonotary Warbler.

Conservation Issues

There is a threat of increased clear-cutting by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for timber sales. Acid mine drainage from old coal mines is also a threat. An abandoned railrode right-of-way is sometimes open to snowmobiling. Conservation measures include a forest management plan for DeHart Reservoir, clearings and plantings of herbaceous vegetation for food/cover, and nest boxes for bluebirds (which have been highly successful). Within the state forest area there are also plantings for wildlife and wildlife management. The value of St. Anthony's Wilderness is enhanced by several bordering land tracts. They include Lykens Reservoir and watershed and State Game Lands 229.

<https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/state/pennsylvania>



Formed in 1996, Pennsylvania developed the first statewide Important Bird Area (IBA) program in the country. A group of scientific advisors (known as the Ornithological Technical Committee) has identified over 80 IBA sites encompassing over two million acres of Pennsylvania's public and private land. These areas include migratory staging areas, winter roost sites and prime breeding areas for songbirds, wading birds, and other species. Pennsylvania is making an important contribution to the conservation of bird habitat in the western hemisphere. Penn's Woods are critical to many interior forest birds, providing nesting habitat to 17% of the world's Scarlet Tanagers and 9% of the Wood Thrushes. By focusing attention on the most essential and vulnerable areas, the IBA program helps to promote proactive habitat conservation, benefiting birds and biodiversity. Audubon Pennsylvania works with a multitude of partners across the Commonwealth to advance the conservation of Important Bird Areas.